



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection Awareness Month

MEETING DATE: September 6, 2006

PREPARED BY: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Mayor Hitchcock present a proclamation proclaiming the month of September 2006 as "Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection Awareness Month" in the City of Lodi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Mayor has been requested to present a proclamation proclaiming the month of September 2006 as "Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection Awareness Month" in the City of Lodi.

Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection (TAAD) is the bulging or tearing of the aorta in the chest. TAAD represents a life-threatening but also highly treatable condition due to advances in diagnostic, medical, and surgical technologies. Proactive diagnosis and appropriate treatment of TAAD minimize the incidence of emergency situations, dramatically improving survival and quality of life.

Carrie Mettler, Lodi resident and representative of the Bicuspid Aortic Foundation, will be at the meeting to accept the proclamation.

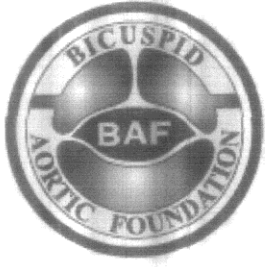
FISCAL IMPACT: None.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: None required.


Jennifer M. Perrin
Interim City Clerk

JMP

APPROVED: 
Blair King, City Manager



BICUSPID AORTIC FOUNDATION

30100 Town Center Drive, Suite O-299
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(888) 310-HOPE

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Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection (TAAD)

The aorta, the largest artery in the body, carries oxygen rich blood away from the heart. The part of the aorta in the chest (thoracic aorta) may be affected by various conditions that cause it to bulge (aneurysm) or tear (dissection). Tearing of the aorta is life threatening, and complete rupture is almost instantaneously fatal. There were approximately 15,000 aorta-related deaths (including both the thoracic and abdominal aorta) reported by the US National Center for Health Statistics in 2002. However, it is difficult to distinguish TAAD from heart attacks, so the actual number of deaths due to TAAD is unknown. Without autopsies (which are not routinely done) to definitively determine the cause, some deaths attributed to massive heart attacks may in reality be due to TAAD.

Risk Factors

The following may result in the development of TAAD:

- Bicuspid aortic valve disease
- Other connective tissue disorders (Ehlers-Danlos, Marfan, Turners, Williams syndromes, etc.)
- Other unspecified familial and connective tissue disorders (familial TAAD)
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Atherosclerosis
- Smoking
- Infectious and inflammatory conditions (Takayasu's aortitis, giant cell arteritis, rheumatoid aortitis, syphilitic aortitis)
- Injury

Diagnostic Screening

- CT with contrast
- MRI with contrast
- Echocardiogram (ascending aorta), or transesophageal echocardiogram

For Additional Information

Please visit the Bicuspid Aortic Foundation web site at <http://www.bicuspidfoundation.com>

Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

The Bicuspid Aortic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to promoting the health and well being of those affected by TAAD. An all-volunteer organization, its resources are devoted to helping those with TAAD live active, productive lives and supporting research activities aimed at advancing its treatment. For further information about how you can help, please contact the Foundation at (888) 310-HOPE (4637), by email at contactus@bicuspidfoundation.com, or by mail at 30100 Town Center Drive, Suite O-299, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.



BICUSPID AORTIC FOUNDATION

"Creating a Climate of Hope"

What is Bicuspid Aortic Valve Disease (BAVD)?

Current clinical and scientific studies are revealing that bicuspid aortic valve disease is not a simple valve condition. It increasingly appears to be a genetically based connective tissue disorder estimated to be present in up to 2% of the population. An inclusive definition, listing the major areas of the body possibly affected, is needed. Not everything is understood today, but enough is known to identify several major characteristics of this condition.

BAVD includes the following:

- Bicuspid aortic valve
- Thoracic aortic dilation, aneurysm, or dissection
- Labile hypertension (high blood pressure which changes quickly with stress or exercise)

It may also include:

- Mitral valve leakage
- Coarctation of the aorta
- Kidney or liver cysts
- Near-sighted vision
- Musculoskeletal degenerative changes (scoliosis, degenerative spinal discs, flexible joints, flat feet, etc.)
- Aneurysm of smaller arteries, including head vessels (berry aneurysms)

Not everyone has all of the listed characteristics. However, those diagnosed with a bicuspid aortic valve, who may have wondered why they also have high blood pressure, a leaking mitral valve, or poor eye sight, will recognize themselves in the definition above.

In many people, BAVD is not just an abnormally shaped aortic valve that may some day, when they are older, need to be repaired or replaced. A broader description is needed to include those who:

- require aortic valve treatment in infancy, childhood, or as young adults.
- develop an aortic aneurysm.
- develop an aortic aneurysm after their bicuspid aortic valves have been replaced.
- experience dissection of their ascending aorta.
- have mitral valve failure.

For more information please visit our website at www.bicuspidfoundation.com

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Telephone toll free (888) 310-HOPE